

Dear Senate Committee members,

I implore you not to allow the sunset to go for five years as Section 248a needs to be updated regularly so as to represent the people. As of now it is not working for us and I have firsthand experience in the matter:

One year ago this month, Industrial Tower & Wireless started their PUC application for a 153' lattice radio tower some 500 feet away from my home where we are raising two young children. Initially I thought everyone in the neighborhood was hearing about it because I received notice of it in the mail and simply assumed the neighborhood and town also received wind of it. However, I was reading about it only because we are adjoining landowners to the property of application site. I quickly learned from calling the list of other abutters that were on my letter to find out half of them were deceased. The only "news" about it publicly was a tiny ad in the back of the classifieds section of the County Courier where it only stated latitude and longitude coordinates as if the average person would know where that is located.

It took me, and I was two months postpartum, all the energy I could muster up to even get the town to hear my pleas for community involvement as if the town zoning, planning commission, and select board literally had no knowledge of their role in the process whatsoever! I, someone who knows absolutely nothing about any of the 248a process, literally had to educate my town on it!!! I even had tons of push back as if my need to be heard, and to let the town and my neighborhood know about the drastic change that would happen, was not of concern. Luckily I have enough persistence and I managed to stir up a 200 person petition, and continued to pester the the town Select Board and Planning Commission to let them know their huge role in this process because I took a lot of my own time educating myself on the matter(!) and so they then finally held a public meeting but the 60-day advance notice was over!

I strongly agree with the changes suggested in H.70 from 60 to 80 days for public engagement prior to a telecommunications company's formal filing with the State and yet that change is minimal, so much more needs to be confronted as well, and, a five year sunset would be catastrophic to keeping this process transparent and democratic. Because H.70 did not pass out of committee, I am asking that 248a please be amended.

Thank you,

Philippa Dorfman